

# Communion of Western Orthodox Churches

## Usages, Counsels and Directives for the Communion of Western Orthodox Churches

In order to strengthen the ecclesial communion which our three Churches have founded, we propose the following usages, counsels and directives in order that we may recover, develop and bring up to date our Western traditions.

- 1 - The Communion of Western Orthodox Churches (C.W.O.C.) is presided over by the College of Bishops, composed of the bishops of the member Churches. This College will meet when necessary and at least once a year, to assure the well-being of the Communion and to strengthen the fraternal bond.
- 2 - The liturgical rite will be recognised as pertaining to the Western tradition.
- 3 - The liturgical calendar used, notably regarding the date of Easter, will follow the Gregorian computation, which is in accord with the tradition of the West.
- 4 - The cycle of bible readings for Sundays, feast days and festivals will be inspired by the ancient tradition of the West, which our Fathers have bequeathed.
- 5 - A common martyrology will be established, in accordance to the Western tradition, including saints of other churches when their spiritual radiance has become universal.
- 6 - The essential common prayers, such as the Our Father, the Creed, the Invocation of the Holy Spirit and others, will be defined by the College of Bishops of the Communion. The same form must be used by every Church according to their language.
- 7 - Every Christian baptised in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and who confesses that the elements of the Eucharist are truly the Body and Blood of Christ, may be welcomed to partake of the eucharistic communion.
- 8 - The clergy of the Communion may participate in services without distinction in the three Churches of the Communion, and need not receive prior permission from their respective hierarchy.
- 9 - The hierarchs of the Communion may preside at the Eucharist and offices in any place of worship within the Communion, in place of, or with the hierarchy of that place.
- 10 - A meeting of our Churches will be organised every three years at the occasion of a particular event (pilgrimage, retreat, conference, festival, anniversary etc) with the aim of strengthening and affirming our Communion.
- 11 - The sister Churches will engage in ecumenical dialogue and meetings with other Christian bodies, such as the meeting held between religious.
- 12 - The reception of other Christian Churches, who adhere to the principles found in the Charter and to the Usages, Counsels and Directives of the Communion, will be subject to the unanimous agreement of the signatory Churches. This agreement will be clarified by the complete divulgence of the history, life and authenticity of the candidate Church. Dialogue between our Churches will be necessary to discern the validity of the candidature. In the case of a positive evaluation, meetings and exchanges will be established with the view to making a final decision.

**Celtic Orthodox Church**

Bishop Mael & Bishop Marc

**French Orthodox Church**

Bishop Vigile & Bishop Martin

**Orthodox Church of the Gauls**

Bishop Gregoire